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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE NO. 5 MARCH 24, 2004 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Students Seek Repeal of Fed Drug Policy

■ Provision denying student aid after drug convictions faces re-evaluation.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

Within weeks, the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider a bill to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). If a non-profit organization called Students for Sensible Drug Policy has its way, the senate judiciary committee will revise the controversial drug provision of the Higher Education Act (HEA) that was enacted in 1998.

That provision disqualifies students with even minor drug convictions from receiving federal financial aid. According to SSDP, it has blocked a large number of otherwise qualified, "low- to middle-income students from receiving federal aid to attend college for what are often relatively minor drug offenses, including misdemeanor possession of marijuana."

please see *SSDP* page 5

Japanese Debate Team Invades Valley

■ National champions prove their mettle in a faceoff against Valley.

SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

THE LAST FORENSIC SAMURAI - Yoshikuni Sato winningly argues the positive effects of videogames.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

The Valley Speech and Debate team talked a good talk against the Japanese champs, but when all was said, they were done.

More than 70 people in the Fireside Room including Dean of Arts and Letters Dennis Reed, saw Valley lose the international debate competition March 17.

"This debate was a great experience," explained Valley team member Shahbaz Khan, economics major. "It wasn't about winning or losing, it was about learning. It was an opportunity to see how they debate with a different view of our society and their feelings about U.S. policy."

Heshanthi Rohanath, 20, political science major, was the other member of Valley's squad.

Josh Miller, co-director

please see *Forensics* page 5

New Faces, Same Goal

■ Student government adds veteran and cultural experience.

BY BOB TEICHMANN
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Associated Student Union added two new officers earlier this month, replacing members who didn't maintain a 2.0 grade point average.

Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Ron Cabrera was added March 2 to replace David Muñoz and Vice President Juliez Frazier, Sr. replaced Eric Iniguez March 9. Frazier and Cabrera look at their new posts as an excellent opportunity to improve themselves and campus life.

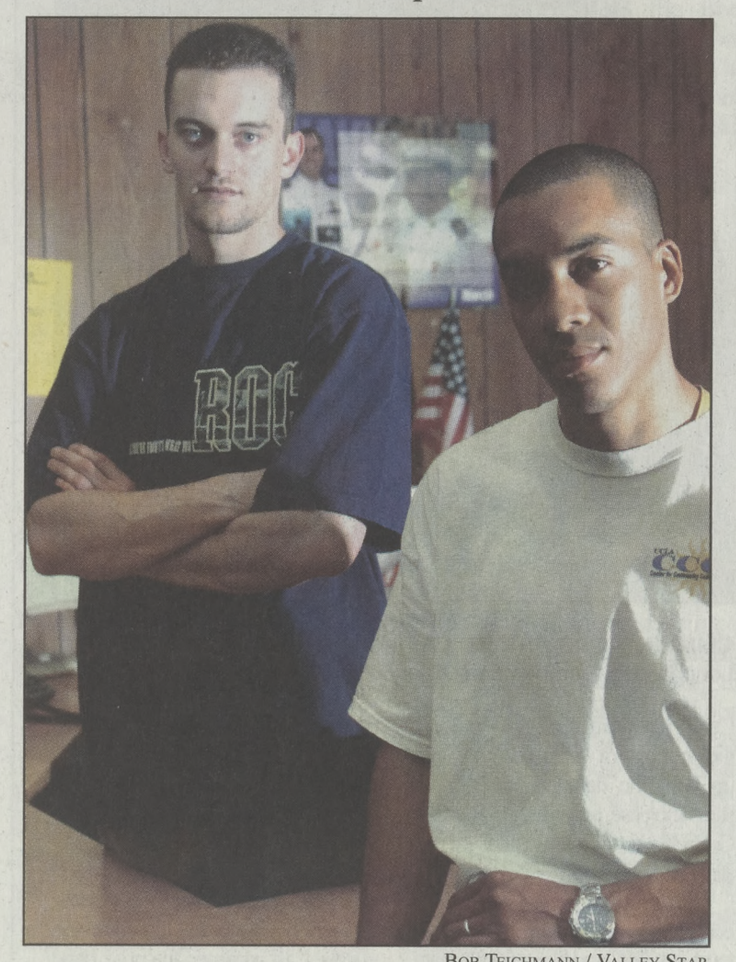
"I want to promote camaraderie among clubs because there is some animosity that needs to be fixed," Frazier said. "Campus organizations have the potential to increase the range of things they can do to affect people in a positive way."

Gaining experience is a priority for both in their future plans. Each is a political science major and hopes to move on to bigger and better things.

"They're fine replacements," said ASU President James Brevard, declining to comment on their predecessors. "They'll both excel at what they do."

Frazier, in his final semester, is considering UCLA's fine political science program and is looking forward to eventually earning his Ph.D.

Cabrera, set to continue at Valley in the fall, will serve as the liaison to campus clubs involving ethnic and cultural concerns. He is intent upon eventually becoming the commissioner of political affairs, which would allow him to interact with state and government officials.



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

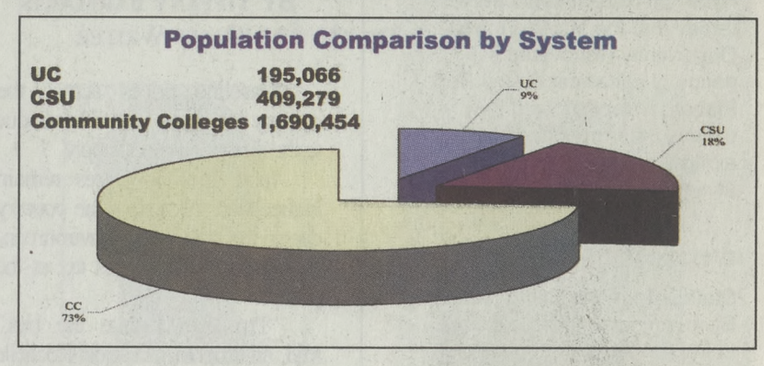
TWO IN - The Associated Student Union's newest members: (L to R) Ron Cabrera, commissioner of ethnic and cultural affairs, and Juliez Frazier, Sr., vice president.

"'Experience' is a big word," Cabrera said. "It isn't just something for you to put down on a résumé - it's what drives you in the real world. When the time comes, will you have enough experience to help you step up to the challenge?"

Both members exemplify the diversity of the student body, not only in ethnicity, but in general experiences in life.

Cabrera began his time at Valley in spring 2002, and has been here since. An unfortunate motorcycle accident in fall 2003 left him with his left arm broken in four places, causing him to reevaluate his life.

please see *ASU* page 6



UC and CSU Students Getting Pushed to CCs

■ Students redirected from four-year schools to receive fee waivers under governor's new plan.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Community colleges, already under-funded and overpopulated, would be forced to accept 10 percent of redirected University of California and California State University students in fall 2004 — for free under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed Guaranteed Transfer Option.

These students will be granted fee waivers to attend community colleges for their undergraduate courses for two years and at a future date be assured a spot in the University system.

Preliminary figures from fall 2003 suggest that the CSUs and UCs admitted approximately 73,702 freshmen. The 10 percent reduction suggested for fall 2004 would thereby redirect an estimated 7,830 students to community colleges, according to the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

Chancellor Mark Drummond stated his concerns about not only the proposed budget, but also the impact of adding more students to community colleges at a Senate budget hearing in Sacramento in March.

Drummond said to adequately serve everyone would require funding for growth and matriculation, as well as adequate funding of non-credit programs.

Compared to two-year institutions in other states, California's investment in per-student funding ranks 45th in the nation. For every dollar that community colleges receive from the state, CSUs receive $1.83 and UCs receive $3.62.

"We welcome the opportunity to teach more students who ultimately can transfer to the four-year institutions, as the Governor's proposal requires," Drummond said. "But, in serving more transfer students, we must not displace the other students we serve—from those in need of basic skills or English as a second language to those in need of vocational certificates."

Drummond urged committee members to uphold the fundamental promise of the master plan for higher education instituted in 1960, which committed the state to admit the top 12.5 percent of high school graduates to UCs and the top 33 percent to CSUs.

Roberta Mailman, vice prin-

please see *Redirected* page 6

JORDAN DINAPOLI / VALLEY STAR

TAKE THAT, EINSTEIN - Two proud veterans of Valley's Biotechnology and Bioinformatics academies hold up the spoils of their triumph.

I Was a Teenage Biotech Graduate

■ Final semester of the Biotech program yields the youngest graduates on campus.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Valley presented diplomas and fond congratulations to the 27 graduates of the Biotechnology and Bioinformatics academies on Saturday in Monarch Hall.

These local teens sacrificed their weekends to gain a gateway to the technology of the future.

"I always get teary-eyed when I come to events like these because you get to see the actual impact that we have on students' lives," said Valley's Dean of Economic Development Dr. Deborah diCesare. "We really have expanded their world and changed their destiny. Most of these kids got an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have had."

Valley's biotech academies began two years ago under funding by state and federal grants. The money

please see *Biotech* page 5

VALLEY PEOPLE

Audrey's Odyssey

■ Valley student has been there, will do that.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Audrey Clark's large brown eyes and medium-length hair, usually pulled back, are of an identical shade. Her strong, compact form moves with energy and grace, and no wonder – she's a three-year veteran of the Valley College dance program.

But it's her smile people are likely to remember – constant, fresh, even when criticizing herself.

"I am awful at singing," she grins, "but I love it!"

That smile is present as she confesses the deep sins of loving country music and struggling with perfectionism. She speaks Italian, draws and paints and by the way, she's a biology major.

"I took Biology 3 and just loved it," says Clark, who intends to transfer to CSUN next semester to study kinesiology and become a physical therapist. She now works as a tutor in the life sciences department and as the assistant to its chair, Karen Roy.

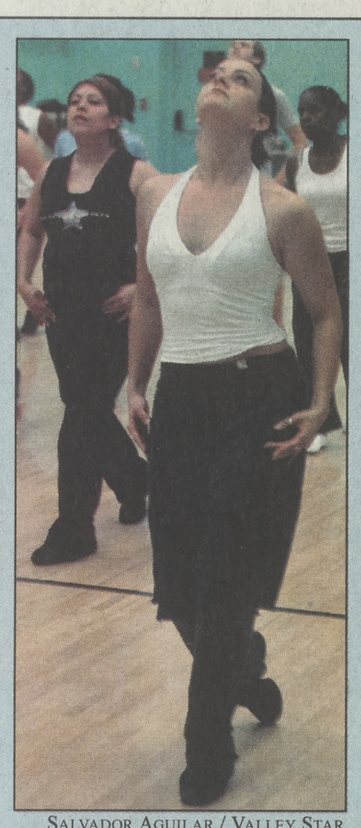
"She's highly regarded in our tutoring program," says Roy. "Students like her. She's thorough, reliable and incredibly personable. Her diverse background – arts mixed with science – makes her versatile, with a unique blend of qualities that you'd want [to work with]."

Clark, 23, has performed in many of the dance department's presentations since 2001, as well as teaching salsa and working part time as a member of Heart to Heart, a hip hop party troupe. You might say she came late to the dance, picking up her first formal training at the age of 20.

"If you've never set foot in a studio, you can take a class here at Valley," she says, grateful for the school's ability to serve all levels of experience. She says that seasoned dancers will routinely take basic classes with beginners because of the need to constantly refine ballet technique. "Your body just doesn't want to do any of that. It's wrong."

She has drawn and painted since elementary school, as the arts were a big part of the Waldorf school she attended.

"You weren't allowed to use black in the lower grades,"



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

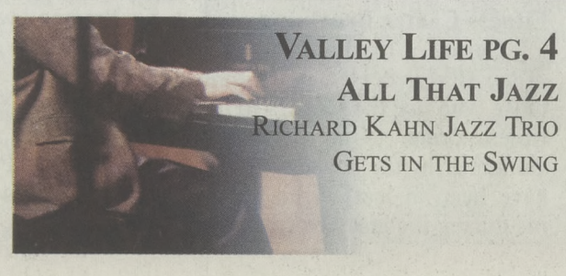
THINGS ARE LOOKING UP - Audrey Clark has got the moves.

she said, "so everything was very colorful and happy."

Throughout childhood, Clark would visit her mother's family in Italy. ("When people ask me what I am, I definitely say I'm Italian-American," she says.) After high school, she went to live there on her own for six months, but missed

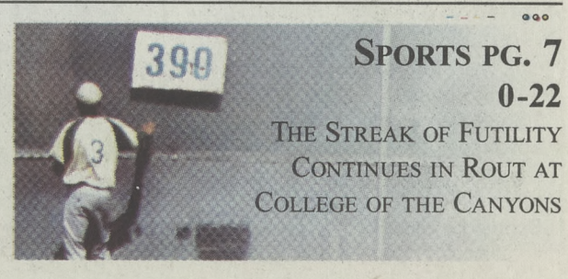
please see *Clark* page 6

GALLERY PG. 8
HEAVEN ON EARTH
SPRING BURSTS FORTH AT DESCANSO GARDENS



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
ALL THAT JAZZ
RICHARD KAHN JAZZ TRIO GETS IN THE SWING

OPINION PG. 3
THROWING THE BOOKS
THE DARK SIDE OF SELF-PUBLISHED TEXTBOOKS



SPORTS PG. 7
0-22
THE STREAK OF FUTILITY CONTINUES IN ROUT AT COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

NEWS REEL

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS:

NASA officials announced yesterday that the Martian rover Opportunity discovered evidence of salt water on the Red Planet. Scientists said they believed the rover is parked along the shoreline of an ancient sea.

9/11 COMMISSION:

Staffers from the Clinton and Bush administrations testified in front of the 9/11 commission yesterday. Among the officials who appeared was former terrorism "czar" Richard Clarke, whose new book, "Against All Enemies," charges the Bush Administration with indifference to the terrorist threat posed by the Al Qaeda terrorist network prior to the attacks in 2001. The White House denies the charges raised in Clarke's book.

CAMPUS EYE

TRIP TO UC SANTA BARBARA:

Barbara Schneider in the Career/Transfer Center is organizing a trip to UC Santa Barbara, April 23, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., open to any students who are interested (see bottom for more information).

ANNUAL JOB FAIR:

Wednesday, March 24, 8 a.m., Monarch Square.

A.S.U. CLUB DAY:

Wednesday, March 24, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square, A.S.U. Office (call A.S.U. for more information 818-778-5516).

CURRICULUM WORKSHOP:

Wednesday, March 24, 1:30 p.m., PMRC.

TEAM TRANSFER:

Wednesday, March 24, 3 p.m., PCR.

CSU BAKERSFIELD REPRESENTATIVE:

Thursday, March 25, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Administration bldg., room 126 (see bottom for more information).

UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM REPRESENTATIVE:

Thursday, March 25, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square (see bottom for more information).

A.S.U. INTER-CLUB COUNCIL MEETING:

Thursday, March 25, 1 p.m., CC104, A.S.U. Office (call A.S.U. at 818-778-5516 for more information).

PLANETARIUM SHOW:

"The Dinosaur Chronicles," Friday, March 26, 8 p.m., Planetarium

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:

Monday, March 29, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Administration bldg, room 126 (see bottom for more information).

CSUN REPRESENTATIVE:

Tuesday, March 30, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Administration bldg, room 126 (see bottom for more information).

A.S.U. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, March 30, 12:45 p.m., CC104, A.S.U. Office (call A.S.U. at 818-778-5516 for more information).

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* Students must sign-up in advance in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration Bldg., room 126, or call Barabara Schneider at (818) 947-2646.

Gas Prices Pumping Up

■ Californians use more gas than is produced by the state's refineries.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Gasoline prices across the country are above record levels due to the threat of a short supply.

In California, prices remain higher than the rest of the country due to the state's strict environmental regulations and sales tax at the pumps.

"I'm glad I take the bus," said anthropology major Rochelle Marshall. "At least the bus prices remain the same."

Currently, the average price of self-serve, regular unleaded gasoline in the Los Angeles/Long Beach area is $2.133, which is 38 cents higher than last month. In San Diego, the price is $2.157, which is 38 cents above the previous month. Motorists along the Central Coast pay an average price of $2.188, a 34-cent increase from February.

Californians use 45 million gallons of gasoline a day but the state's refineries produce only 43 million gallons, according to State Energy Commission figures. The remaining gasoline has to be imported at a higher cost.

"California has nearly 23 million registered drivers," Carol Thorp, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Auto Club said in an article on the Automobile Club of Southern California web page. "If each one of them saved two gallons a week, it would equal a full day's production of gasoline. Reduced demand would relieve the pressure on supplies."

Eight of the 13 refineries in California were unable to produce the amount of oil needed to keep up with the demand, causing the steep increase, according to Suzanne Garfield, a spokeswoman for the state Energy Commission.

"Refineries are like an industrial complex," Garfield said. "These systems run 24/7 and like a power plant, they require a lot of maintenance. California also has the cleanest gasoline in the world, which puts a lot of pressure on refineries."

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which supplies a third of the world's oil, had long kept prices low, in a range of $25 to $30 per barrel. That was high enough to maintain revenues but low enough not to boost conservation efforts. Last summer, the price band rose from $30 to $35. Many analysts argue that prices could surge past $40 in April.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

CLIMBING GAS PRICES - A gallon of gas in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area has risen to an average of $2.133.

Students Win Big on T.V.

■ Game show offers college tuition as prize.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

The second annual Get Schooled Games Tour 2004 is coming to Southern California in May as part of a 10-city promotion to award $110,000 in college tuition.

The Game Show Network and Bank of America Student Banking have partnered for the student-focused educational games road show. One winner in each market will walk away with $10,000 for school and a trip to Los Angeles to compete on GSN.

More than 400,000 people attended the events last year, Kathy Cannon of Bank of America said in a recent GSN press release.

"Our participation gives us the opportunity to not only provide students and parents with the information they need to make smart decisions about student loans," said Cannon, "but also to answer questions about Bank of America checking and credit card products that have been designed specifically for students."

One of the college stops included in the tour is Sacramento State University on May 6. Attendees register for the chance to appear on stage to answer trivia and compete in "wacky" contests.

Valley student Theresa Chavez, 16, said she is interested in the promotion. "For a poor student like me it's a good way to get some money for school." "I'm a huge game show fan and everyone should enter because, if you think about it, you have nothing to lose."

The event includes a special celebrity guest appearance by Evan Marriott of Fox's "Joe Millionaire" and host of the new GSN series, "Fake-A-Date." Marriott will be on hand at each event to sign autographs, pose for photographs and greet guests.

The tour also features GSN hosts Todd Newton ("Whammy"), Graham Elwood ("Cram"), and Kurt Long ("Games Across America"), who will run the competition in each city.

Prizes at each college event include $100 Bank of America Student Visa Cards, electronics and a pair of roundtrip airline tickets, courtesy of Orbitz.

Students who are unable to attend the event can enter the Get Schooled Games Tour National Sweepstakes online at GSN.com. Entrants have a chance to compete with the 10 top winners from the tour for the $10,000 grand prize.

Students can go to www.gsn.com/win to enter the sweepstakes, which began March 15.

Asbestos Found, Abated

■ Administration says removal of carcinogenic material in restrooms posed no health risk for students.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Students at Valley College can breathe a little easier now that the asbestos discovered during renovations in the Campus Center's first-floor restrooms has been removed. Many students and administrators were alarmed because asbestos is a known carcinogen.

"Everybody's hair just stands up on their necks when you hear the word 'asbestos,'" said Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of Student Services.

However, according to Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice-president of Administration, this isn't an issue to cause concern.

"Given the age of the campus, asbestos was a normal building component," Jacobsmeyer said, adding that he expected to find it. "It usually takes 30 to 40 days to have a company lined up to remove asbestos," Jacobsmeyer said. "We had ours lined up within three. We were prepared for it."

When Valley College was built in 1949, asbestos was commonly used in construction materials due to its resiliency and its fire retardant properties. Since it was found to be carcinogenic, the federal government began imposing restrictions on its use in the 1970s.

Jacobsmeyer said that no one in the immediate areas had to be evacuated because of how controlled the removal procedure was and that the real threat from asbestos comes when the mate-

please see *Asbestos* page 6

Valley Club Has International Flavor

■ ISC brings students from different ethnic backgrounds together.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
NEWS EDITOR

The International Students Club, new on campus, is offering students a chance to connect with their ethnic roots.

The club's mission is to integrate international students, help them academically and make them feel more at home, according to Francisco Santa Maria, ISC president.

"Students will have the opportunity to meet other international students from their country or other students that have the same native language," said Santa Maria of Guatemala.

ISC officers and members boast natives of several countries, including Guatemala, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Australia, Poland, and the United States. Membership is open to anyone interested student.

The club is seeking new members. "Any student with the drive will become an important part of this new club," Santa Maria said.

The club will have weekly workshops with special guests who will discuss important resources available inside and outside Valley College, according to Santa Maria.

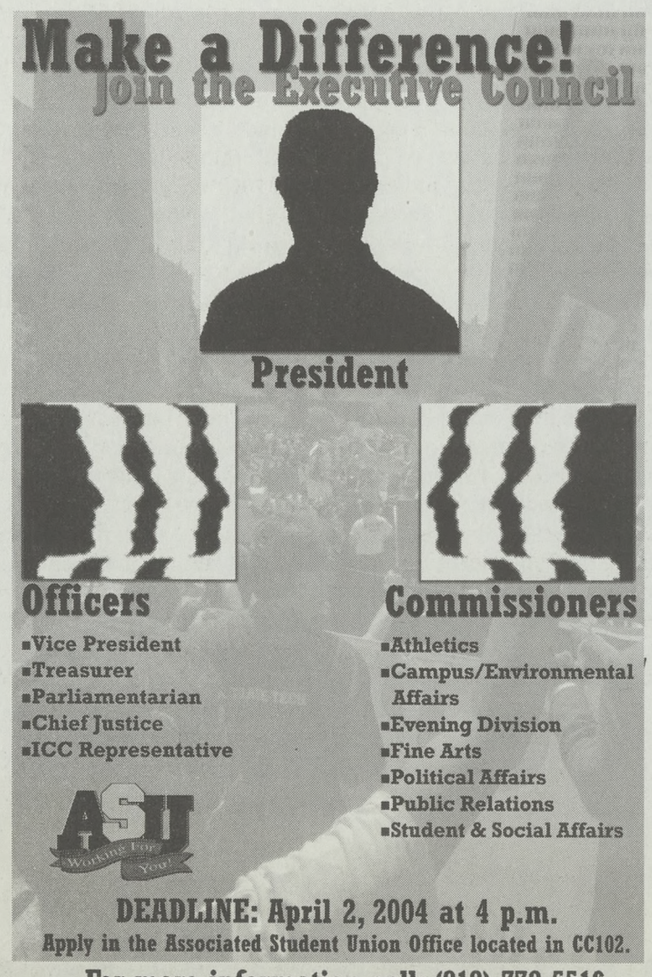
Scheduled guests include Dr. Alfred Zucker of the Honor societies and head of the English department, Dr. Bruce Thomas of the Transfer Alliance Program and UC and CSU International Administration Counselors.

"[The club] is a nice way to meet people from different countries," said club member Poorni Perera, a native of Sri Lanka.

The club will engage in a variety of activities, including field trips to places like Dodger Stadium. The ISU will also participate in Club Day every other Wednesday and will set up its own table in the quad and sell food from the members' native countries to raise funds.

Members are needed for such tasks as advertisement management, coordination of workshops, Club Day and field trip preparation, among other things.

"There is plenty of work to do and more brains are needed for the required tasks that involve running a club effectively," said Santa Maria.



CAMPUS CRIME

Car Stolen from Lot D

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Grand Theft Auto

A 1996 Chevy Suburban was stolen from lot D March 16. Police searched the area but were unable to locate the vehicle or any witnesses.

Fitness Center Break-ins

Bernie Christian, director of the fitness center, is warning those who use the lockers in the fitness center to not leave any valuables in the lockers. There have been at least three break-ins during the last two weeks.

Two locks were cut off and another broken into. Another student reported his lock had been tampered with, possibly smashed with a hammer. One student reported that his wallet and cell phone were stolen, another that his sweat pants were gone.

Anyone with information should call the campus police.

Parking Pass Stolen

This is an ongoing problem on campus. Please remember to close your windows and lock your doors.

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OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Not All Books Have Happy Endings

■ **Self-published textbooks - are they a cure worse than the disease?**

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION EDITOR

Almost all students can agree that book buyback is one of the most anticipated end-of-semester events. You breathe a sigh of relief that you survived another term, gather together all of those tiresome late night companions and sell them back, hoping never to see them again. True, your return is a fraction of your original cost, but at least it's something – and some other lucky student can then purchase your used copy at a reduced rate.

Unless, that is, you're in a class where the textbook is purchased directly from the instructor.

There is at least one instance of this occurring now at Valley. During the first class meeting, the instructor informs his students that to remain enrolled in his class they must buy his book. No sharing is allowed – they must have their own copy, distributed solely by the teacher. There is no way around it; to remain in this class, which for many is required for transfer to a four-year college, students must pay the instructor $40.

To drive home the sale, at the end of every chapter there is a crossword puzzle to hand in, and this page must be torn directly from the book.

The bookstore will not buy back the book since it doesn't sell it in the first place. The instructor himself does not conduct buyback for used copies, nor can they be sold to incoming students because of the missing crossword pages.

The arrangement of self-published textbooks raises many questions. Who approves the content? What is the editorial process? How can the students know that they are receiving the best-suited material for the class they are taking?

Even if there are no issues with the appropriateness of the material, doesn't the fact of a teacher selling items to students at a markup raise serious ethical issues?

Jack Sterk of Valley College's speech department and an advocate of self-published textbooks and direct sales, told The Valley Star, "When you go to these big publishers, the prices skyrocket. They want a piece of the action and the bookstore wants a piece of the action. These self-published materials are produced at far less of a cost to the student."

If the entire textbook cost for a class is $40, most students would agree that seems lower than average. But before we declare this a golden example of sticking it to the man, let's have a look at the probable costs.

Let's assume that the book is produced at a copying house such as Kinko's. If the book runs 200 pages, double-sided, the copies would cost approximately $24, at the astronomical rate of 12 cents per page (other copying houses, such as Bob's in North Hollywood, charge about 3 cents per page). The binding, using plastic coils and a clear front cover and black back cover could cost $5 per book. The title page, printed on card stock, could cost as much as $1. Even with these generous estimates, the book costs $30 to produce, but is sold to students at $40 per book. That is a 33.3 percent mark-up, and does not include price breaks given for high volume jobs.

Although the cost to the student may be a little less than the cost of a "published" textbook that is sold at the bookstore, how can an instructor justify making a profit off the students? When an individual chooses to become a teacher he or she takes on the responsibility of being a guiding force in another's life. What kind of example is this practice setting?

If the students, not the profits, are the main concern, then why not offer the text online or on CD (students could bring in blank CDs and pay a nominal fee for the time spent burning the discs)? Allow students to choose whether or not to take on the cost of printing the book themselves, with the $40 hard copy as their final option. At the very least, allow photocopies of pages that must be turned in – then the students would be the ones truly profiting.

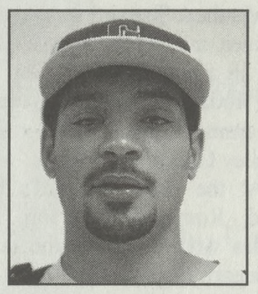
WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

... So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

CampusView

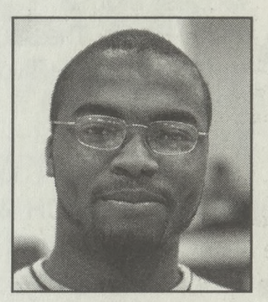
PHOTOS BY SALVADOR AGUILAR

Should textbooks be sold by teachers at a profit?



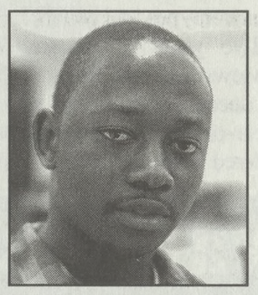
"...if it's cheaper than the school then, it's cool. Why not get it cheaper if I can. The book is coming from the teacher who is going to instruct us in class."

- Matthew Carter



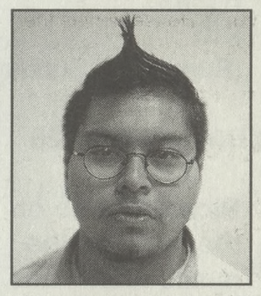
"I think if the instructor has something better than the original text, no problem as long as the profit is reasonable."

- Gbenga Elehihafe



"Nothing wrong with it, as long as it's cheap. Affordable for everyone...they should not obligate the student to buy the book."

- Christian Kayembe



"If they want to make life a little bit easier then let them. It's half and half...to help themselves and their family. Also to help us students to do well in class."

- Luke Ochoa

ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More About Smoking

Re: "Smart People Don't Smoke" (March 17)

And speaking of smoking, I want to personally thank all the smokers on campus who are using our newly signed designated smoking areas. I am a student at Valley College who has asthma and heart disease. Secondhand smoke is bad for everyone, but for people like me it is a real health hazard. I really count on people not smoking along the covered walkway or in front of classroom buildings. For people like me, it's really a matter of "life and breath."

LYNN KESSLER
VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENT

Why Are You Here?

A few years ago a classmate at Valley College was complaining to me she was having trouble deciding on a major. I asked her what her past interests were. She replied,: "I've always liked photography."

"There you are," I exclaimed. "Try the photojournalism major."

She lighted up with enthusiasm and said, "Photography was staring me right in the face all the time."

I ran into her a year later, -- after she had taken several photojournalism classes. She asked me curiously how I came up with the idea of looking back at her past interests.

"I am the product of a wonderful education, all based on my past interestss," I answered.

Allow me a moment to elaborate. When I was 13 years old, I developed an active interest in spray painting. When I finished high school, I must mention I never had a desire to go to college, I applied for a job at a local manufacturer and luckily was hired as a spray painter.

I subsequently enrolled evenings at Trade-Tech College taking wood and metal finishing classes. I eventually enrolled in Los Angeles City College's two-year evening program in paint (formulation) technology and earned my associate degree. In 1967, I opened a paint enameling business, which I operated for 27 successful years.

I began to write successfully for many paint-trade journals. Reactions to my articles were so encouraging that I eventually enrolled at Valley College where I became a magazine journalism major, and went on to a new future in writing.

As you can see, by transforming a past interest into a college education, you may find several unexpected 'pots-of-gold' at the end of your rainbow.

LAWRENCE STONE
VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENT

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES. THIS WEEK: **HOW INVOLVED SHOULD THE UNITED STATES BE IN THE REBUILDING OF HAITI?**

Philanthropic Empire or Myopic Umpire?

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

It 's far too late for the U.S. to attempt to extricate itself from the Haitian crisis.

In fact, it's time for the world's only military superpower step up to the global plate and bat an apple pie out of the ballpark for the Gipper.

Despite failed interventions in foreign lands such as Vietnam, the U.S. continues to soil itself with foreign aid policies that are less like assistance than colonization.

The latest conundrum in Haiti provides yet another opportunity for the U.S. to stop pretending that foreign aid military interventions are anything other than what they are. The government should just come out and say it loud and say it proud: "We're here, we're a global oligarchy and we're gonna take over the world!"

But once our team takes the field without an exit strategy, the game can't be called on account of rain, sleet, snow or the fickle winds of popular democratic opinion.

As the people of Iraq look forward to the dawning of a new inning of democracy, it looks like the people of Haiti will be sitting it out on the bench.

With U.S. military and economic resources spreading thin, the American plan for stabilizing Haiti looks just like a common baseball strategy.

If you can't beat him, walk him.

The only consequential difference between Iraq and Haiti is that Iraq has more economic resources for peanuts, popcorn and crackerjacks.

Haiti is just one more country on the list of quandaries for the U.S. that have become unstable either in spite of or in the wake of American policies.

America might as well adopt the "You Broke It, You Bought It" policy towards the nations it attempts to democratize.

"U.S. foreign policy has been characterized by a high degree of self-confidence, complacency and intoxication with its own power following the Cold War," Vladimir Lukin, a deputy speaker of the Russian parliament and a former ambassador to Washington, said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

"If the U.S. prefers to pretend that it rules the world, such myopia will continue to result in horrible acts of terror," he added.

U.S. troops in Haiti have been attacked several times and have shot and killed at least six Haitians in past weeks.

In Aristide strongholds, Marines are seen as an occupation army by the militants who believe Aristide's charges that the United States abducted him and forced him to leave the country.

According to a recent Associated Press report, anger has been brewing in BelAir, Haiti since Marines shot and killed two men last Friday. The Marines said the two were gunmen, but no weapons were recovered. Residents said those killed were neither militants nor armed and that one was playing basketball. Several people were wounded in the fierce but brief firefight.

If they'd been playing baseball the military may have been able to claim that they were armed because they would have at least had a bat.

The game of glorious globalization goes on and backing out of Haiti is no longer an option.

Quitting in the middle of a national take-over would only create more breeding grounds for terrorism and anti-Americanism, and would represent one more strike for the

Your Democracy Isn't Good Enough

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

President Bush is a bully whose careless wielding of democracy as a club in the Middle East was followed by giving a democratically-elected leader a blackjack to the skull in Haiti.

Bush had no right to proclaim Jean-Bertrand Aristide an unfit ruler, helping to force him out of office.

The Haitian people should decide what is best for their country, not the "mastermind" behind the new Vietnam in Iraq.

Sure, Aristide might have been a big disappointment to his followers. Once proclaimed a champion of the poor, his failure to resolve conflicts between the greedy Haitian elite and the impoverished public led to the ruthless violence that tore that country apart in the last few weeks.

Haiti was once the richest colony in the Western Hemisphere; now it's the most impoverished, with an unemployment rate of 70 percent. One half of the country's wealth is owned by 1 percent of the population and close to 85 percent of Haitians live on less than $1 per day.

U.S. foreign policy is the main reason for Haiti's poverty, especially the recent refusal to lend funds to the fledgling democracy due to "election problems."

Haiti, it seems, hasn't met our standard for a democratic government.

In other words, Aristide has annoyed two different Bush administrations by winning elections despite U.S. opposition.

Our government withdrew financial support from Haiti as it did when he won in 1990, this time vetoing $500 million in aid from the Inter-American Development Bank. Those loans were allocated explicitly for improving education and health. They were withheld because the U.S. government claimed that votes from eight Haitian senate seats were not counted properly in the 2000 elections; they failed to recognize that those eight senators had all resigned their seats.

The administration showed no interest in helping when hundreds of innocents were slaughtered during the second elite-led rebellion against Aristide. So why did the Bush gang become so helpful now?

They were afraid. Officials feared Haitian refugees pouring into Florida would cause political fallout. The U.S. began pressuring Aristide to accept a coalition government that would be led by the opposition.

When the rebels refused to compromise and demanded Aristide's immediate departure, the Bush Administration once more showed no signs of helping the elected leader. Instead they increased pressure on Aristide, eventually forcing him into exile.

Once again, the U.S. is responsible for a foreign country's fate. Once again, the United States will have to decide how or whether to build a police force that can provide security. Once again, the United States will have to decide if it has the will and the patience to build a basic infrastructure essential to creating another country's economy.

By helping to oust a democratically-elected president, albeit a deeply flawed one, the U.S. has sent a chilling message to the world. The proliferation of democracy as an American policy is just words, not policy.

Last I checked, democracy meant more than just an excuse to abuse power.

VALLEY LIFE

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WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Modest Mouse
Henry Fonda Theater
6216 Hollywood Blvd.
8 p.m.
$18

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Lucy Nargizyan on piano in the music recital hall. 11:30 a.m.

"The Laramie Project"
Horseshoe Theater
8 p.m.
$10
(Running til Sunday)

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Ricardo Cobo on the guitar in the music recital hall.
8 p.m.
Presale- 2 for $15 or $10 at the door.

Damien Rice
The Wiltern LG
Wilshire & Western
8 p.m.
$26.50

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

No Events Scheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

No Events Scheduled

MONDAY, MARCH 29

Modest Mouse
House Of Blues
8 p.m.
$18

EDITOR'S PICK

Prince
Staples Center
7:30 p.m.
$49.50 - 85.00

His Royal Badness may have lost his freaking mind lately (who can forget his door-to-door religious conversion efforts on Yom Kippur?) but the man can still rock the house. Touring in support of his new album, "Musicology," he promises to put on yet another fiery spectacle of musical nirvana. Fanatics tend to wait for his unannounced small club shows, but you just don't often hear of someone attending a Prince show and being disappointed. Care for a shot at conversion without a little purple man knocking on your door at dinner? Check out the onetime 'slave' - an all-time master.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

The Breeders
Troubador
9081 Santa Monica Blvd.
7:30 p.m.

Tragedy Inspires Change

■ Romaine Patterson has seen "The Laramie Project" change people's opinions.

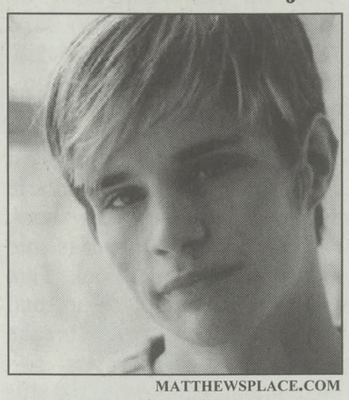
BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Matthew Shepard was savagely beaten and left to die on a frigid night in Laramie, Wyo. Oct. 12, 1998. Today his legacy remains in the Laramie Project, which arrives at Valley College March 26.

At the time, Shepard's best friend, Romaine Patterson, had no idea what an effect the death of Shepard would have. Today she fights for gay rights on her syndicated talk show in New York.

"It's exciting to see what an impact this play has on people," said Patterson. "'The Laramie Project' delivers such an impact on peoples' lives and digs down to a deeper, more personal level of our own stereotypes and beliefs."

Two years of research and interviews have led to the nationwide success of a play in which a 21-year-old student was viciously murdered simply because he was gay. It is currently the second most-produced play in modern American theatre, according to Patterson. Shepard's spirit is on top, offering meaningful insight to those who come and see what happened to him.



MATTHEWSPLACE.COM
ALWAYS REMEMBERED - Matthew Shepard's legacy lives on in Laramie.

"You can't watch and not be affected," said Patterson. "It is such a joy for me to watch and know that I was part of an influence in an educational and respectful way to those people out there that must face these issues in our world today."

In "The Laramie Project," there is much to learn from each of the characters. Whether you are watching the relationship that Patterson and Shepard had or the Rev. Fred Phelps rallying his followers with "God Hates Fags" signs at Shepard's funeral, a lesson is there to be had.

"People don't realize that Fred Phelps is not a bad person and does a great service to the community," added Patterson. "I think he is a sick person and a jerk, but he inspires all of us to take action against him and his beliefs. He makes us realize that our battle is not over and he is providing us with more good than harm; Phelps makes us say, 'I do not want to be aligned with that.'"

"The Laramie Project" opens Thursday, March 24 in the Horseshoe Theater and runs until Sunday, March 28. Tickets are $10.

Valley Keeps The Music Going

■ Jazz trio gets crowd groovin' over an intimate set as Valley continues provide outstanding performances.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

The Richard Kahn Trio, with Richard Kahn playing the piano, bassist Greg Eicher, and drummer Steven Barnes, performed jazzy selections from the Great American Songbook at the Valley College Music Recital Hall on March 18.

"If we make something really magical happen on stage then people will respond to it," said Kahn.

The trio opened of their first performances since their January reunion with the classic "The Girl From Ipanema."

Kahn and Eicher went to high school together and bumped into each other at the Regent Beverly Wilshire where they decided to form the trio. Eicher brought Barnes to the group and the three play like a band that has been together for years.

"It's not like we sit around and rehearse," said Kahn. "We just show up and play. When we are on stage, we're playing for each other."

Kahn has been a pianist for more than 20 years. Proud to be a part of Valley's music faculty, he is a full-time instructor in commercial music harmony, arranging, music notation, computer music technology and piano.

One of the highlights of the performance was Kahn's dedication of "Over the Rainbow" to Department Chair Dianne Wintrob.

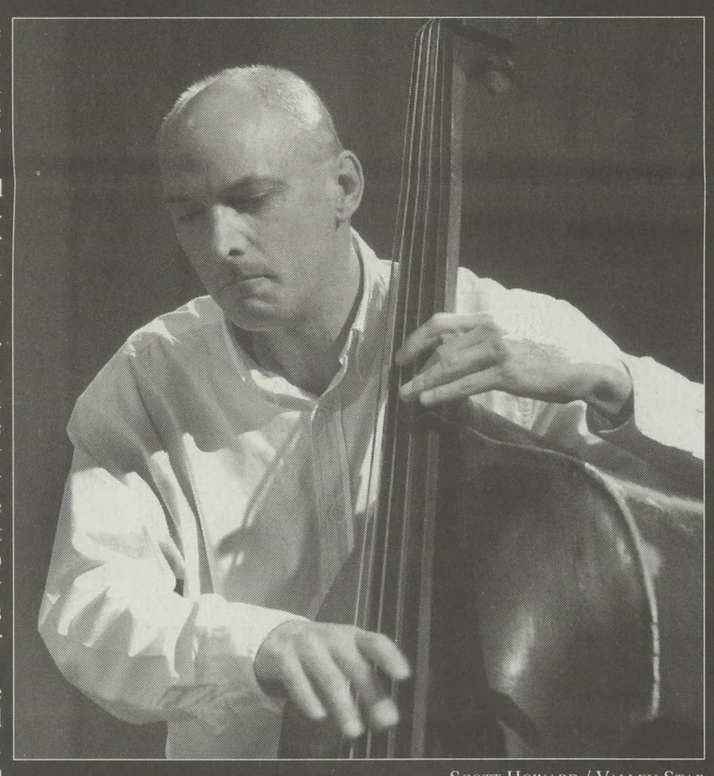
"When you're playing any material for an audience you have to take certain things into consideration," said Kahn. "You can't just come out and program stuff they've never heard before. You could tell we were still on 'Over the Rainbow' when we weren't playing the melody. I try to take that into consideration."

The rest of the set list included "Bessie's Blues," "Polka Dots and Moonbeams," "Hymn To Freedom," "One Note Samba," "Lush Life" (with a piano solo), "Stella By Starlight," "Lullaby of Birdland," "Triste" and "Green Dolphin Street."

■ Valley symphony features special guest, Yumi Man.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS AND NAYIBE GULESIAN
STAFF WRITERS

Violinist Yumi Man performed for a full house with the Valley Symphony Orchestra Saturday.



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR
GOT THE BLUES? - Greg Eicher feels the vibe during "Bessie's Blues"

The 16-year-old, with Dr. Robert Chauls conducting, played Mozart's Concerto No. 5 at Valley College's Main Stage Theatre.

"She has a lot of emotion and sensitivity in the way she plays," said concert attendee Cassie Shoi.

As Man played, her body swayed to the music. Her energy captivated the audience as she stood in front of the orchestra and commanded the stage.

"Yumi Man is on of the most incredible violinists I've ever heard," said Dr. Chauls. "She's as good as anyone around; she could be on the international circuit."

At 16, this prodigy has already performed with the

please see *Man* page 6

FILM CLIPS

"Eternal Sunshine" is Bright and Dark

■ Writer Charlie Kaufman's latest is his greatest so far; Also reviewed: "Hidalgo," "Spartan," "Starsky & Hutch."

BY MICHAEL ORDONA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet
Dir. Michael Gondry
★★★★

Since "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" takes its title from an Alexander Pope poem, it's only fair to butcher Voltaire in calling the film the wise daughter of the mad mother, "50 First Dates." Both are memory-loss romances, both have plenty of absurdities, both star comic actors in serious roles and both are surprisingly mature, thoughtful and emotional.

Without giving away too much, "Sunshine" is the story of the aftermath of a stormy love affair between introverted and inhibited Joel Barish (Carrey, in his most richly-textured performance to date) and erratic and captivating Clementine Kruczinski (Winslet). Most people who've endured a deeply traumatic event wish it were possible to simply forget it ever happened; "Sunshine" offers a look at that possibility.

There are instances of unmistakable truth in the catalog of Joel and Clementine's romance, such as a riffing conversation beneath the covers that cuts unexpectedly deeply. That fleeting moment, shot in warm, orange light, carries an intimacy that is, well, unforgettable. Director Gondry handles the twisting narrative with aplomb, and the supporting cast is uniformly strong. Winslet, in particular, crafts a complex, fascinating character.

It's only mid-March, but "Eternal Sunshine" is without question the best film of 2004 so far.

Hidalgo
Viggo Mortensen, Omar Sharif
Dir. Joe Johnston
★½

"Hidalgo" is as mottled as its title character, a mixed-blood mustang ridden by the ubiquitous mysterious loner. The film is part "Seabiscuit," "Dances with Wolves," "Last Samurai" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark," but its biggest part comes from "Lord of the Rings" – leading man Viggo Mortensen. The result is something patched together and with little more kick than a show pony. Mortensen will rise again. If filmgoers are lucky, director Johnston ("Jurassic Park III," "Young Indiana Jones Chronicles") won't.

Spartan
Val Kilmer, Derek Luke
Dir. David Mamet
★★★½

Iconic theatre writer David Mamet has followed perhaps his most effective film, the comedy, "State and Main," with a tight spy thriller, "Spartan." It's a consistently interesting glance into a Secret Service investigation; both the action and the film are carried by a powerful performance by Val Kilmer.

Kilmer has apparently developed something of a bad reputation in Hollywood for his real-life erratic behavior, but as Will Ferrell once said of him in a Saturday Night Live sketch, "He may be hell on the set, but he's heaven on the screen."

Kilmer's single-minded Master Sgt. is the engine of the movie, carrying the viewer along with his sheer drive.

There are enough interesting situations and surprises to make the story worth watching, but make no mistake – this is Kilmer's movie.

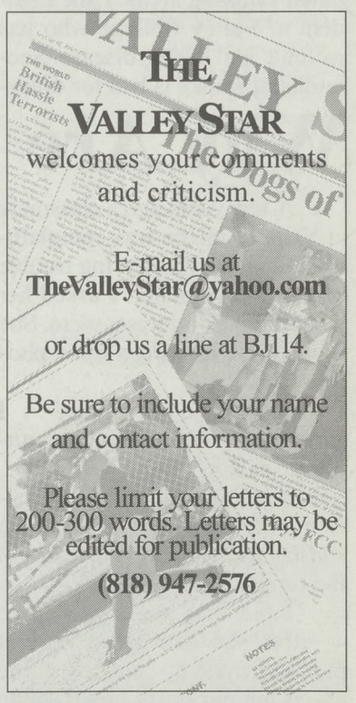
Starsky & Hutch
Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson
Dir. Todd Phillips
★

The '70s period piece "Starsky & Hutch" is like a 45 played at 33. For you folks born after 1980 that means the whole thing feels too slow, as if it just can't find the beat.

The witless script by three writers including director Todd Phillips ("Road Trip", "Old School") has about enough laughs for a five-minute Saturday Night Live sketch.

The film has considerably less of a connection to its source series than did the much more entertaining "Charlie's Angels" jaunts, which shouldn't really matter as not even people who were watching TV in 1975 have much recollection of the original show. But since there's nothing else to recommend it beyond half-hearted nostalgia, this lifeless stab at a franchise should go the way of its trademark red Torino and ride off into the scrap heap.

Additional content online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com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Please limit your letters to 200-300 words. Letters may be edited for publication.
(818) 947-2576

Valley Blasé? Study Abroad In Paris

■ Valley offers students the opportunity to earn school credit and develop themselves this summer overseas.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

French professor Dominique Merril has become the program leader for Valley College's first sponsorship to Paris. A program held at Pierce College for the last 10 years has shifted over as a 'study abroad' organization. ACCENT (not an acronym) and Valley have teamed up for this adventurous journey.

"We want anybody who wants to go to come with us," said Merril. "You do not need any French experience whatsoever; the only requirement is that you are 18 or older."

The program offers the student five transferable units the month of July at the University of Paris and double room residence halls at the Cité Universitaire.

The $2,900 cost includes tuition, lodging, daily guided excursions, a Paris Metro pass, overseas information and a resource center with ACCENT Paris on-site staff and an International Student Identity Card. Not included are roundtrip airfare, meals, or personal expenses such as books, passports and visas.

"As the April 21 deadline approaches we have about seven or eight students fully committed," said Merril. "We understand it is expensive but it is [a chance] for us to expand this opportunity to other areas of the foreign language department for possible future travel to Italy or Spain."

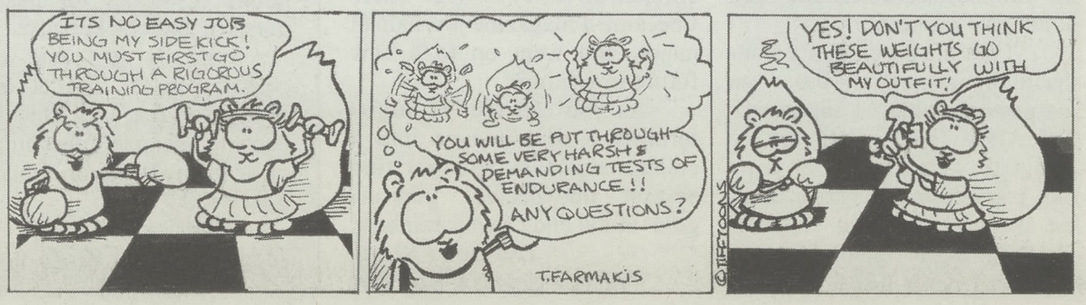
A "study abroad" program such as this one provides a wide learning spectrum for the student. With its original locations in Europe for 30 years now, ACCENT has been arranging these programs for 15 years for American students.

"The advantage of our program over others is the ability to be part of the group or, if you prefer, to distance yourself in your own adventures," said ACCENT's San Francisco office director Allison Keith. "It gives the students a chance to be in another country and independent."

For more information contact Dominque Merril at (818)-947-2380 or online at merrildl@lavc.edu. For an online brochure go to www.lavc.edu and click on the "Summer in Paris" link.

Fight Like a Squirrel

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON


ITS NO EASY JOB BEING MY SIDE KICK! YOU MUST FIRST GO THROUGH A RIGOROUS TRAINING PROGRAM.
YOU WILL BE PUT THROUGH SOME VERY HARSH & DEMANDING TESTS OF ENDURANCE!! ANY QUESTIONS?
T.FARMAKIS
YES! DON'T YOU THINK THESE WEIGHTS GO BEAUTIFULLY WITH MY OUTFIT!
©TIFFTOONS

'Biotech'

continued from page 1

came from both the Vocational Education Technical Act and the Minority Science Engineering Improvement Program.

The aim of the unique programs was to prepare a workforce for the technology of the future and to provide a pathway for underrepresented students to segue into high-paying careers in science.

Industry participants donated support, field trips, supplies, speakers and tours.

However, the money has run out and the program won't be continuing beyond summer 2004.

"We are in the process of seeking new funding," said Dr. Pamela Byrd-Williams, program director. "Hopefully we will have the funding for the biotech program by the time we get the new building, when there will be more labs, equipment and space available."

Byrd-Williams congratulated the graduates and urged them to keep in touch.

"We are extremely proud of our students," she said. Be sure to thank your teachers for recommending you. You are the cream of the crop. Keep Valley in mind and remember that we're here for you."

Academy Coordinator Dr. Paul Lonquich expressed disappointment about the end of the program but is hopeful that new grants will come through. "Unfortunately the department doesn't have the resources to say 'Hey, some high school kids want to use our equipment and supplies for a weekend program? Sure, here's the credit card!'"

Academy participant Jany Alvarez, a 10th grader from John Burroughs High School, said she enjoyed her time at Valley. "If you are interested in science you learn so much from this program," said Alvarez.

She expressed her appreciation for the support of the teachers and felt that the program helped her become more dedicated to her dream. "I really learned and I'm really sure about a career in science now," she said.

She has no regrets about giving up her leisure time. "I might have liked to sleep in on Saturdays but I know that in the long run it will pay off for me to have invested my time here instead."

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'SSDP'

continued from page 1

The Department of Education reported that more than 124,000 students lost their financial aid since the provision's enactment.

SSDP says its mission is to provide education on the harms and causes of the war on drugs and to get students involved in the political process. It seeks to promote discussions about the war on drugs and solutions to the nation's drug problem.

According to its website, SSDP is "a non-violent youth-oriented organization that neither encourages nor condemns drug use. Rather, we seek to reduce the harms caused by drug abuse and drug policies."

The organization further decries what it calls the "hasty" adoption of the restrictive rule without hearings six years ago.

The bill seeking to repeal the provision, H.R. 685, has gained 64 cosponsors, and a resolution opposing the provision has been adopted by more than 100 student governments.

Democratic presidential candidates Wesley Clark, Howard Dean, Joe Lieberman, Carol Moseley Braun, Richard Gephardt, and Dennis Kucinich support the repeal of the drug provision, according to the SSDP website.

Nominee John Kerry supports a partial repeal.

In January, then-candidate Howard Dean spoke out against the provision at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire.

"Get rid of it. Repeal it, period. It's a dumb idea," Dean said. "If you want people to go to college, you don't prevent them because they have a drug conviction. There's no possible sense in doing that."

"You can't judge people by their past. If they had a problem with drugs, they should still be allowed to pursue what they want," said Valley College business management major, Nestor Alfaro.

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'Man'

continued from page 1

California Philharmonic and the La Mirada Chamber Orchestra, among other prestigious groups. She first played with the Valley Symphony in 2000 and is the only soloist to be invited back to perform with the orchestra.

As Man prepared for each solo, she closed her eyes and tapped her fingers on her violin to the rhythm of the music. When she heard her cue, she raised her bow above her head then glided it across the strings.

After a climactic finale, Man received a two-minute standing ovation as she accepted bouquets from audience members and took her final bow.

"Yumi was fantastic," said Valley student Sheeri Rappaport. "She has incredible focus and love for the music. She's one with the violin, they belong together."

Man is scheduled to perform at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre March 28 at 4 p.m. (323) 939-1128.

'Forensics'

continued from page 1

of Valley's speech and debate team, worked in conjunction with Cal State Los Angeles and the National Communication Association to coordinate a tour of the Japanese national debate team.

"When most people hear the term 'forensics' they think of forensic science or crime investigation," said Miller. "But if you look in the dictionary you'll see that the true meaning of the word forensics is the study of formal debate."

"Every two years Japan has a national debate contest and the winning team goes on a U.S. tour coordinated by Cal State L.A."

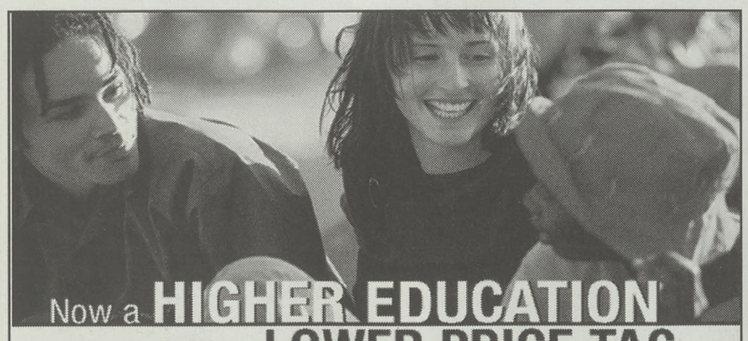
After the debate, the Japanese presented the Valley team with a Tenugui (a bandana), and some miso soup as a gift of appreciation for their hospitality.

Valley gave them gift bags including Valley T-shirts and notebooks.

The two-man Japanese contingent consisted of Yoshikuni Sato, 24, current graduate student at Osaka University and Katsuya Koresawa, 27, a graduate of Dokkyo University who currently works at Fukutumi Company.

"Audiences in the U.S. are more reactionary than Japanese audiences," said Koresawa. "They are the most reactionary audience in the world and Japanese audiences are very quiet and patient, by tradition."

Miller said that 14 Valley students are headed for this year's national tournament in Woodland Hills.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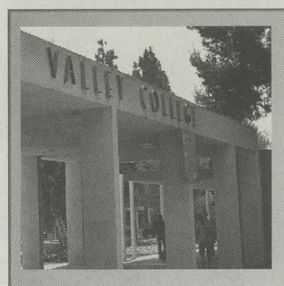
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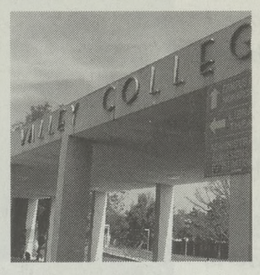
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Schedule: Wednesdays 7-10 p.m.
Start Date: April 28, 2004

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Rod Lyons, Program Coordinator

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'Clark'

continued from page 1

family, friends and "being able to go buy apples on Sundays. And 24-hour things."

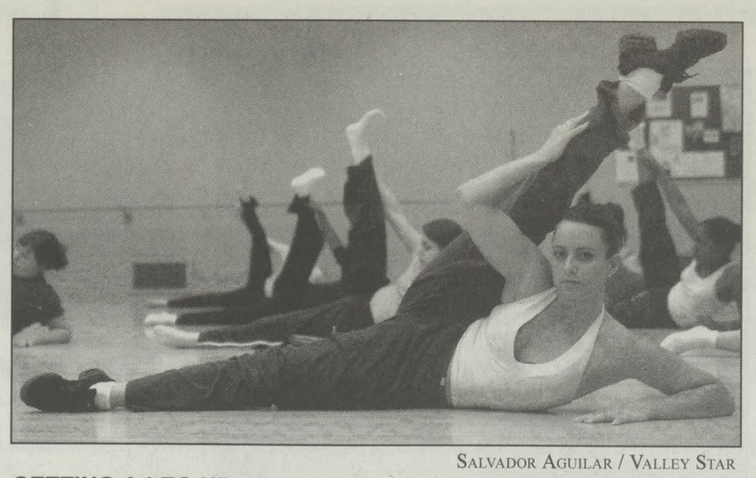
"It was a time to grow and experience a lot of things, but it didn't really change me," she says, "Everything you do every day is an experience, especially here in Los Angeles, with all the different people and cultures."

She bounced around for a while, working as an extra in television, then as a production assistant and in wardrobe, all the while considering entering a directing program.

That led her to Valley, where she did take a film class, but ended up being enthralled by the science and dance departments.

"It's amazing that she can put so much effort into her education and still dance," said friend and fellow dancer, Kendra Hartmann. "She's one of those people who makes you want to be a better person."

One of Clark's dance instructors, Carla Lubow, said that Audrey projects inner strength and integrity. "She's very caring and conscientious. She really relates to people; it's not just about getting her schooling done or her career going. She's very open-minded and accepting of people and ideas."



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

GETTING A LEG UP - Audrey Clark stretches herself in more ways than one (here in Carla Lubow's Jazz Dance Technique class).

That openness was probably shaped by her experience of growing up with a mentally handicapped sister. Melissa, four years her senior, suffers from several ailments of which doctors have given varying diagnoses.

"It's a little bit of autism, a little bit of Tourette's," said Audrey. "Her vocabulary is like 20 times mine, and she reads 50 times as quickly – yet somehow it means nothing. She has no common sense, no self-control. I guess some people are just wired wrong."

While the bulk of the caretaking was handled by the girls' parents, Audrey learned to cope with the difficult situation of living with someone she calls "a good person who could become violent. I tried to mediate a lot … it definitely taught me to be patient."

Now Melissa is married and living in Arizona with a husband who apparently suffers from complementary afflictions. The two share an affinity for the wild west and met through a write-in dating service for cowboy enthusiasts, Jan's Hoofbeats and Heartbeats.

"Strangely enough, he's perfect for her," says Audrey, "They're similar yet opposite. When she overreacts and starts screaming, he's so soft-spoken … they balance each other out."

Those who meet Audrey Clark have little doubt she'll take on a career in physical therapy, dance and life and balance them with aplomb.

'Asbestos'

continued from page 2

rial becomes friable or airborne.

Once airborne, small asbestos fibers can be inhaled and cause a number of health problems, including scarring of lung tissue and cancer. When it is mixed with other materials and left undisturbed, asbestos is harmless.

"Asbestos is a very good material under normal conditions," Sam Vergara, a supervising inspector for the Air Quality Management District said in an AQMD newsletter to the public.

Still, some students argued that all the campus bathrooms ought to be put through routine tests, to check for substances like asbestos in order to ensure student safety.

"We should be able to stop this problem before it becomes an issue and before people get sick," said child psychology major Syreeta Batiste.

However, according to Rick Greenwood, director of the office of Environmental Health and Safety at UCLA, asbestos cannot be avoided.

In addition to materials in older buildings, people are exposed to airborne asbestos every day, even from the brake pads on their cars.

"On the scale of things you should worry about, [asbestos] is really pretty low," Greenwood said.

Jacobsmeyer said that students shouldn't worry.

He described the monitoring company behind its removal, Winzler and Kelly, as "highly regarded."

"Abating asbestos is something these guys do everyday, it's almost the same as installing faucets," said Jacobsmeyer. "[Finding asbestos] is not a negative thing; this is something we can do in complete safety."

'ASU'

continued from page 1

"While some guys go do the club scene on Friday nights, I sit home, relax and read a good book," Cabrera explained, a copy of Thomas Sowell's "Ethnic America" sticking out of his bag.

Frazier, a Navy veteran, current reservist and father of three has been a Monarch since summer 2002. Valley occupies much of his time, as he spends up to 30 hours per week on campus.

He was active as the Black Student Union's Inter-Club Council representative, causing his interest in student government to grow.

"The ASU has done a good job improving the sights and sounds of the campus in recent months and I'm happy to be a part of it now," Frazier said. "We have legacies this semester and we want to fulfill those legacies."

Both are glad to have the opportunity to make a difference in the way the system works. Both want to pursue positive change all the way to Sacramento.

"The political nonsense that is dragged around in Sacramento hurts everybody," Cabrera said. "If you can't do what helps us to help you, then I can't vote for you."

"It's hard enough to be a college student," Frazier said, "but it's terrible to have people in Sacramento tell us that we don't care or that our word doesn't count."

Cabrera said he knows the student body has the power to create change, both on campus and in the community.

"But that cannot happen," Frazier said, "unless the word gets out that students indeed have that power."

If their convictions hold true and their goals stay bound, student awareness and campus change may very well be what the two men get.

'Redirected'

continued from page 1

cipal at Van Nuys High School, said what's happening at their campus is that students who applied only to CSUs feel discouraged from the outset so they don't come in for advice from their counselors. The ones who are worried are the ones applying everywhere. Mailman said Van Nuys High School has been holding "College Nights" for the last two years to encourage students to continue on to higher education.

"Those of our students who apply to the four-year institutions usually apply to several," Mailman said. "We tell them, especially in a year like this, to hedge their bets everywhere, including community colleges."

Valley College President Tyree Weider expressed concern about stretching the system's limited funds to support even more students while giving them fee waivers. Redirected students would be distributed around 109 community college campuses.

"We're not expecting hordes of UC or CSU students here," said Weider.

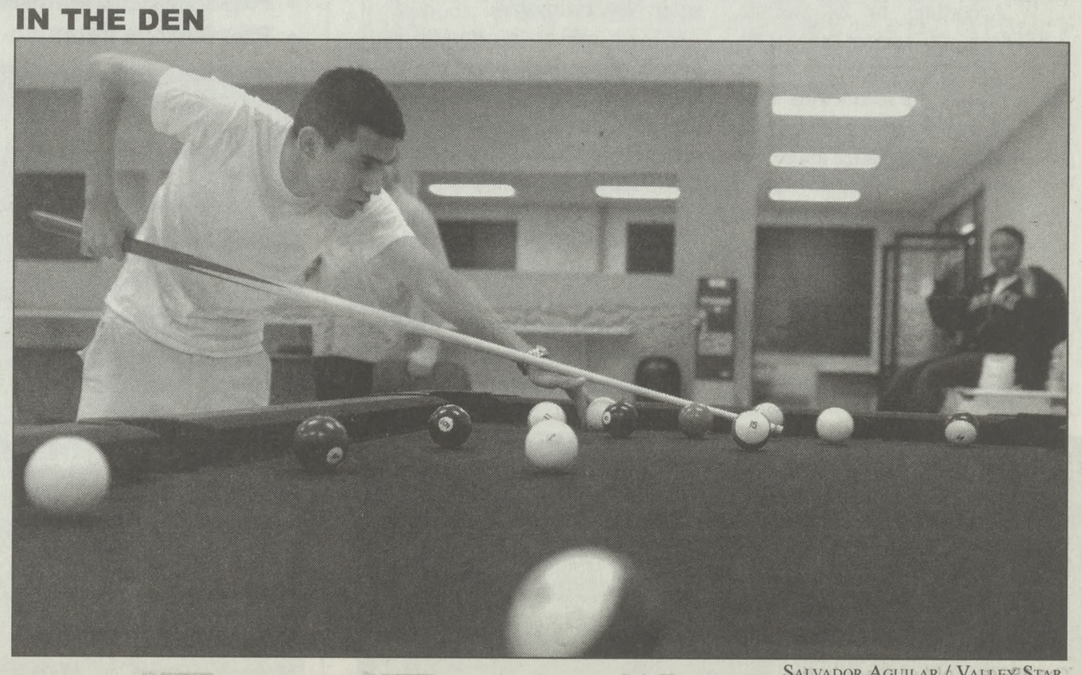
"The way we operate is on a first-come, first-served basis," Weider said. "Continuing students who have at least 60 units completed get a registration date prior to a student that has 10 units so they can fill as many classes as they need to. What's left over will be for new students coming in."

Valley's spring 2004 enrollment of 17,388 has seen a steady decline during the last two years, dropping from 19,519 in fall 2002, in part because of last year's $540 million budget cuts to education under Gov. Gray Davis' authority. The combination of cuts and fee increases in 2003 led to community colleges turning away an estimated 175,000 students for fall and winter. The proposed tuition increase to $26 per unit ($50 per unit for baccalaureate degree holders) will likely affect those who are not eligible for other higher education institutions and adults returning for job training.

Synthia Saltoun, director of the transfer center at Valley said she has attended several meetings but will not know what impact there will be until April.

"The UCs are where the impact will be," Saltoun said. "Students should know by May ,after the notifications are sent out. Right now, there's just a lot of meetings."

IN THE DEN



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

RACK 'EM - Business major Jeovany Gavitia plays a relaxing game of pool at the Lion's Den.

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LAVC SCORES

Baseball @ Canyons
(L 6-25) 3/20/04
Baseball Record: 0-22
Softball vs. Canyons
(L 2-8) 3/18/04
Softball Record: 9-11, 6-4 conference

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/24/04
Swim @ El Camino 1 p.m.
Thursday 3/25/04
Softball vs. Mission 2:30 p.m.*
Friday 3/26/04
No Scheduled Games
Saturday 3/27/04
Baseball @ Mission 1 p.m.
Sunday 3/28/04
No Scheduled Games
Monday 3/29/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 3/30/04
Softball @ Glendale 1 p.m.*
Baseball vs. Mission 2 p.m.
Wednesday 3/31/04
No Scheduled Games
*WSC Gold Division

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers vs. Milwaukee Bucks
(W 104-103 OT) 3/21/04
Shaquille O'Neal: 31 pts, 26 rb, 7 blk
Kobe Bryant: 22 pts, 4 ast, 8-8 ft
Karl Malone: 14 pts, 5 ast, 4-4 ft
LAL Record: 47-23, Third Place West. Conf.
L.A. Clippers @ Denver Nuggets
(L 80-102) 3/22/04
Pedja Drobnjak: 24 pts, 6 rb, 3 ast
Elton Brand: 9 pts, 7 rb, 2 ast
Eddie House: 8 pts, 3 rb, 1 ast
LAC Record: 27-44
L.A. Kings vs. Edmonton Oilers
(L 1-2) 3/22/04
LAK Record: 28-24, 79 pts, 10th place west. conf.

NOTES

NBA
Houston Rockets guard Steve Francis was fined $25,000 by the league Monday for his use of vulgar language during halftime of the Rockets' 100-95 loss to the Sacramento Kings Sunday. ESPN's Jim Gray approached him for a comment, but Francis instead swore about receiving a technical foul and left the court.

NBA
The 19-year-old accuser in the Kobe Bryant rape case is scheduled to testify Wednesday in Colorado at a closed-door hearing.

NBA
TNT analyst and former NBA star Charles Barkley was inducted into the Phoenix Suns' Ring of Honor Saturday at America West Arena. Barkley spent four years (1992-1996) in Phoenix, taking the Suns to the NBA Finals in his 1993 MVP season with a franchise record 62 wins.

NBA
Veteran Los Angeles Lakers forward Horace Grant was placed on the injured list Friday for a tear in his hip. Despite the injury, Grant has decided to postpone surgery until after this season in favor of a physical therapy regimen geared to prepare him for the playoffs.

NBA
Long-time Atlanta Hawks beat writer for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Jeff Denberg died Thursday after a fight with brain cancer. He was 62.

NHL
The league suspended Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Wade Belak for eight games Monday after landing a two-handed chop on Colorado Avalanche defensman Ossi Vaananen's face.

NHL
The Los Angeles Kings activated goaltender Roman Cechmanek from the injured list Thursday after missing two weeks with a groin injury. Cechmanek had five shutouts this season prior to his absence.

MLB
An ugly, green mascot and 3,000 pounds of explosives were all that Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium needed to come crashing down into a pile of rubble Sunday.

MLB
Microsoft Corp. and Major League Baseball Advanced Media closed a deal Monday that will have the Microsoft Network replace RealNetworks as the exclusive provider for online MLB content. Under the agreement, users of MSN services will be able to access free baseball content on MSN.com, as well as access to game broadcasts and additional content for MSN's users of paid services.

MLB
Almost one year to the day he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer), New York Mets bench coach Don Baylor is back with the team for the first time in spring training Sunday after being pronounced cancer-free three weeks ago.

WSC BASEBALL

Monarchs Give Up, Get Beaten Down

■ **The streak of futility reaches 22 this season, 38 going back to 2003; team has lost 90 games in three years.**

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

SANTA CLARITA – The Monarchs traveled to the College of the Canyons Saturday and were crushed into roadkill by the Cougars, 25-6.

The embarrassing pounding left them with an 0-11 conference record, no wins in 22 games overall this year (4-90-1 over the last three seasons) and some players and coaches questioning the team's effort.

"It's pretty frustrating, knowing that you have to play all nine innings," said shortstop Abel Pulido, who was 2-5 with an RBI. "It becomes a long game when some of your teammates are giving up."

Starting pitcher Jorge Olmedo did a different kind of giving, starting with six runs in the first. He left after struggling through four innings, surrendering 13 runs on 17 hits. He faced a total of 27 batters.

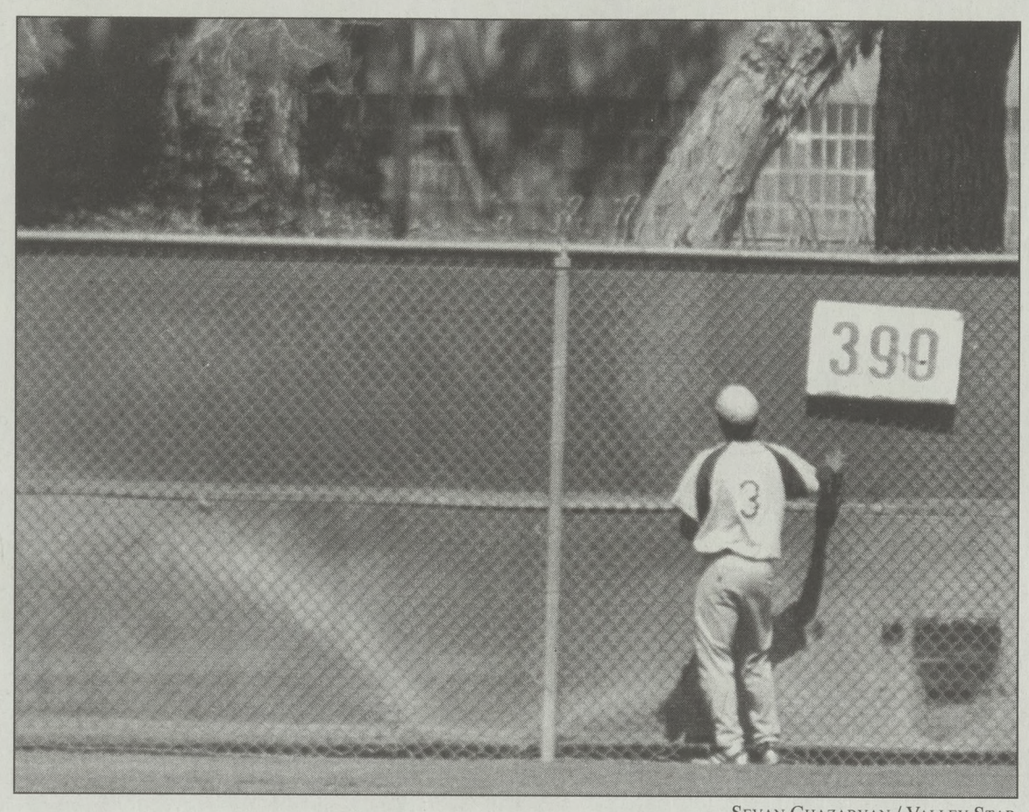
Meanwhile, Cougar second baseman Chris Martinez had a field day as he racked up four big hits, including two homeruns and two doubles, and finished with 10 RBIs.

Cougar pitcher Jeremy Harrow didn't exactly dominate, giving up five runs and nine hits in five innings, but the Monarchs failed repeatedly to capitalize as they continually left runners on, perpetuating their season-long pattern of failing to hit in the clutch.

Valley third baseman Tyler Silfer said, "There's nothing to say … the same things are happening over and over again."

Silfer said that while the Monarchs were doing a good job hitting and getting on, they seemed to stall after big innings by the opposition.

Head Coach Chris Johnson said that the team needed to wake up. "I want the team to realize that they are playing at a collegiate level. I want them to play even if they get hammered. I want the team to keep going and continue competing."



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

TELL IT GOODBYE - Monarch outfielder Alex Miranda looks for answers as he watches the fourth homerun blast by Canyons Saturday in Valencia. The Cougars stomped the Monarchs 25-6.

BASEBALL
Los Angeles Valley College - Western State Conference
BOX SCORE vs. College of the Canyons Cougars - March 20, 2004
Valencia, CA

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
L.A. VALLEY	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	6	11	4
CANYONS	6	0	5	2	6	0	5	1	x	25	27	4

Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
@ Mission	3/27	1 p.m.
Mission	3/30	1 p.m.
@ Bakersfield	4/1	3 p.m.

WSC SOFTBALL

Closer Than They Appear

■ **Monarchs mauled by the Lady Cougars – and themselves.**

BY MICHAEL ORDONA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Lady Monarchs met their conference rivals, the College of the Canyons Lady Cougars, at Valley on Thursday and got routed 8-2 … sort of.

If not for a nightmarish second inning, the teams might still be dueling. Instead, three hits, four errors and a wild pitch in that frame led to six unearned runs and a key loss to drop Valley's record to 9-11 (6-4 in conference).

"We beat ourselves," said shortstop Christie Sotelo, who had two hits and an RBI. Noting that Valley starter Amanda Salazar only gave up two earned runs in her complete game effort, Sotelo added, "She gave it all she had. She deserved to win."

Canyons coach Ray Whitten agreed about the quality of Salazar's outing.

"I don't think my batters had the greatest day at the plate," he said, "and you've got to give all the credit to her."

Some credit is also due to Canyons cleanup hitter and centerfielder Danyale Peterson, who went 2-for-4 with the clutch, two-out, three-run double that broke the game open in the second, and to starting pitcher Cassandra Shires. Shires (4-3) overcame early jitters to shut down the Lady Monarchs for most of the game.

"[Shires] did a fine job," said Whitten. "It's only her seventh game; she's just starting to get back in the swing of things."

It was Valley that came out swinging early. They racked up a quick score in the first on three hits but suffered some bad luck when a sure triple by catcher Lorena Arreguin went out of play, holding her to an ground rule, RBI double. When Sotelo followed with a line single to right, Arreguin was cut down trying to score by Canyons right fielder Megan Allen, snuffing out the threat.

After that, Shires settled down, allowing only a one-run uprising in the fourth when the Lady Cougars were already comfortably ahead.

The Lady Mon-archs stayed in it with some tough defense as third baseman Deyssy Esquivel started a lineout double play to kill a threat in the fourth, left fielder Sandra Chavez tracked down a blast at the fence in the fifth and right fielder Heather Bates gunned down Canyons' Ashlee Nava trying to stretch a single in the seventh.

Unfortunately for Valley, they just didn't have enough to overcome their second-inning meltdown in a game that was much closer than the score implies. They're still in the thick of the playoff hunt, although now in the rearview mirror of the Lady Cougars (10-7, 7-4 in conference and second behind Bakersfield).

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

NOT SAFE - Monarch outfielder Alma Palacios, right, is caught out at first base Thursday in Valley's 8-2 loss to Citrus.

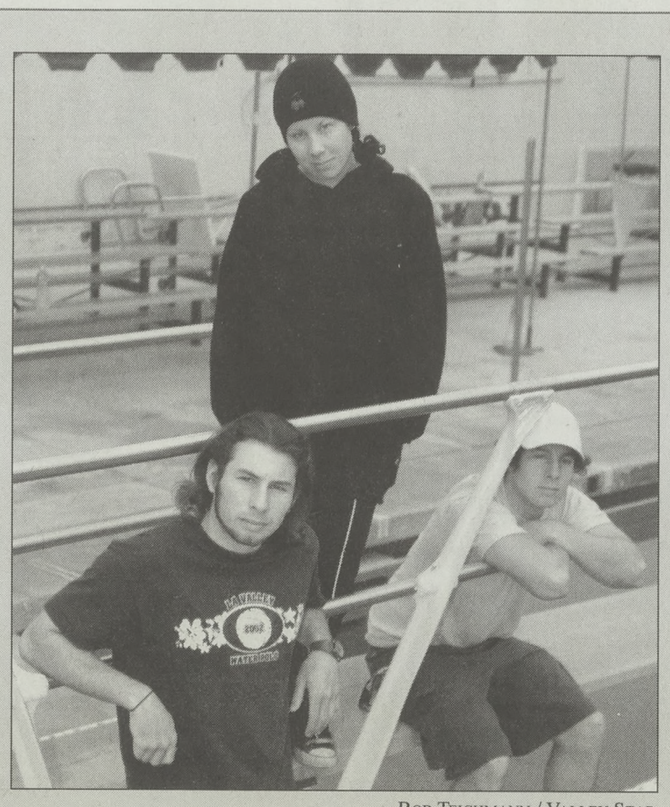
"We're a good team," said Sotelo of Valley's chances. "We stay together."

The Lady Cougars had better watch out – because objects in the mirror can be closer than they appear.

Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
Mission	3/25	2:30 p.m.
@ Glendale*	3/30	2 p.m.

*Gold Division Game



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

THREE'S COMPANY - Valley College's sibling swimmers, the Albertis: (L to R) Larry, 20, and twins Val and Matt, 18.

Blood is Thicker Than Water

■ **Siblings on Valley swim squad are closer than your average teammates.**

BY CHELSEA BANKS AND JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITERS

Larry Alberti, 20, cuts a laid-back figure, complete with Mickey Mouse hat cocked to the side and old, faded aqua-blue converse sneakers.

His siblings, twins Matt and Valentina Alberti, 18, are virtually identical but have individual styles. Matt sports skater shoes and a baseball cap with a band logo. Valentina wears a pink stud matching her pants in one ear, and a skull and crossbones earring in the other with a matching necklace. Both always seem as if they have somewhere else to be.

What do the three have in common besides family? They are all members of the Valley College swim team.

"Our grandmother has a pool so we've been swimming there since day one," said Larry. "We're just aquatic like that, I guess."

Since their father swam for the national team in Italy, nearly qualifying for the 1984 Olympics, it should be no surprise that swimming comes naturally to them.

They became a part of the Monarch Aquatic Swim Team, the swim club at Valley, when Larry was 10 and the twins were 9. The club is more social than the actual swim team (of which they are also members), but is still very competitive.

Although all are skilled swimmers, they each swim different events. Matt swims the four strokes (butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle) individual medley and the backstroke. Valentina's events are the 200 freestyle, 100 backstroke and 100 freestyle. Larry is most proficient at the breaststroke.

Although the trio enjoys swimming, their preferred sport is water polo, which they discovered in high school.

"[When] you're swimming laps, [you're just] looking at the bottom of the pool," Valentina said. "Water polo is more like, 'Go out there and kick some ass.'"

They have varying career goals as well. Larry wants to apply his facility with languages to international business. He speaks Italian, Spanish and French, as do his siblings. (Their mother is French, their father is Italian, and they all learned Spanish in high school.)

Valentina enjoys drawing and is enrolled in a life drawing class, although her style of choice is anime.

Matt, who has been playing guitar for six years, has been playing in a metal band called "The Nocturnal Mungers" for two years. He is pursuing a career in music and wants to go to a specialized school, perhaps in New York.

For three people who are similar in many ways, they intend to make their names known with their own individual styles.

GALLERY

HEAVEN ON EARTH

PHOTOS, TEXT AND LAYOUT
BY GABY ALONSO
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

People of all ages visited Descanso Gardens, La Cañada's best kept secret, Sunday in celebration of spring.

Located near the intersection of the 210 and 2 freeways, Descanso Gardens occupies 160 acres and was founded in 1937 by E. Manchester Boddy, publisher and owner of the Los Angeles Daily News. Boddy's vision was to preserve this legacy of gardens, woodlands and chaparral for future generations to enjoy.

The property has been owned by Los Angeles County since 1953, but Descanso Gardens is open to the public. The spring celebration, through May 16, is highlighted by a festival of flowers. Thousands of tulips fill this beautiful place, along with lilacs, camellias and roses. Descanso is a nearly surreal atmosphere; its natural beauty wakes up the senses and eases the mind.